

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 37 have been amended. In particular, limitations from claims 2 and 7 have been brought into claim 1. New claim 42 has been added.

Previously presented claims 37-41 were added as new claims in the response filed December 11, 2006. Applicants take notice that claims 37-41 do not appear to have been considered by the Examiner. More particularly, claims 37-41 were not indicated to be pending, nor were they rejected in either the present Advisory Action dated June 1, 2007 or the Final Office Action mailed March 13, 2007.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 & 103

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,888,322 issued to Dowling et al. (hereinafter “Dowling”). Dowling describes, “A color-changing device which includes an enclosure at least a portion of which is material which is desired to change color (See Abstract).” Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dowling* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,652,128 issued to Misaras (hereinafter “Misaras”). Misaras describes, “an apparatus and method of perforating the cover layer or soft skin of an automotive trim panel such as an instrument panel with a laser to allow light to bleed through the perforations (See Abstract).”

Claim 1 has been amended to specifically require an indicator assembly that includes, “at least one light source capable of emitting light, and **a light guide for directing light emitted from the at least one light source to an associated specific portion of the inner surface of the housing** so as to produce the indicator image at the specific portion of the outer surface of the housing desired to be illuminated.” Support for this amendment can be found at least at paragraph [00206] of the present application, portions of which recite, “The masking element may come in the form of a light guide or light pipe that can form an image by directing light to a specific area. The light guide and pipe may further help guide light from one area to another such as when the light source is at a remote location. By way of example, Fig. 44 shows a light guide 812 forming an image on the illuminable housing portion 806 via the light source 802 (see also Fig. 25) and Fig. 45 shows a light pipe 814 forming an image on the illuminable housing portion 806 via the light source 802 (see also Fig. 24).”

It is respectfully submitted that Dowling neither teaches nor suggests the use of a light guide or light pipe “for directing light emitted from the at least one light source to an associated

specific portion of the inner surface of the housing.” It is acknowledged that Dowling discloses that “the color changing devices could comprise, but are not limited to, fiber optic strands, incandescent lighting, fluorescent lighting, or other solid-state technology (See column 2 lines 63-65).” However, Dowling never discloses or suggests the use of a light guide to direct light from one area to another area, and particularly from a light source to a specific portion of a housing.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Dowling. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Misaras fails to cure the deficiencies of Dowling, and hence, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Additionally, claim 37 has been amended to require limitations similar in scope to those recited in amended claim 1, and hence, it is respectfully submitted that claim 37 is patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons described above for claim 1.

All dependent claims depend either directly or indirectly on independent claims 1 and 37, and hence, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 37.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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